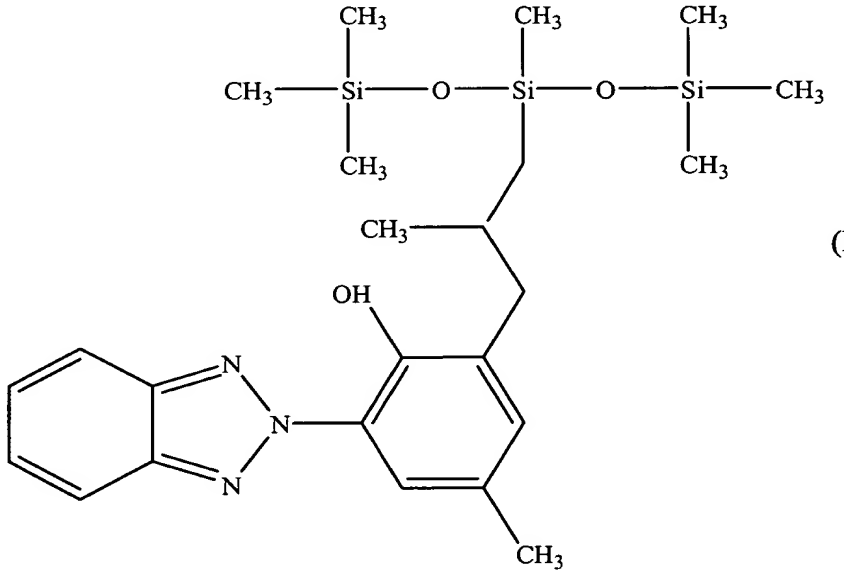
20. (Amended) The method of Claim 19, wherein the composition further comprises a UV screening agent selected from the group consisting of dibenzoylmethane derivatives, benzylidenecamphor-based UVA-active screening agents, benzylidenecamphor-based UVB-active screening agents, benzimidazole-type or benzoxazole-type UVA-active screening agents, benzophenone derivatives, silane derivatives, polyorganosiloxanes containing a benzophenone group, benzotriazoles, benzotriazole silicones, triazine derivatives, cinnamic acid derivatives, alkyl 2-cyano-3,3-diphenylacrylates, octocrylene, the compound of formula I below,



(I)

and mixtures thereof.

21. (Amended) The method of Claim 19, wherein the composition further comprises said other depigmenting agent selected from the group consisting of kojic acid, ellagic acid, arbutin and derivatives thereof, hydroquinone, aminophenol derivatives, iminophenol

derivatives, L-2-oxothiazolidone-4-carboxylic acid and salts or esters thereof, procysteine and salts or esters thereof, ascorbic acid and derivatives thereof, and plant extracts.

D2 Cont.

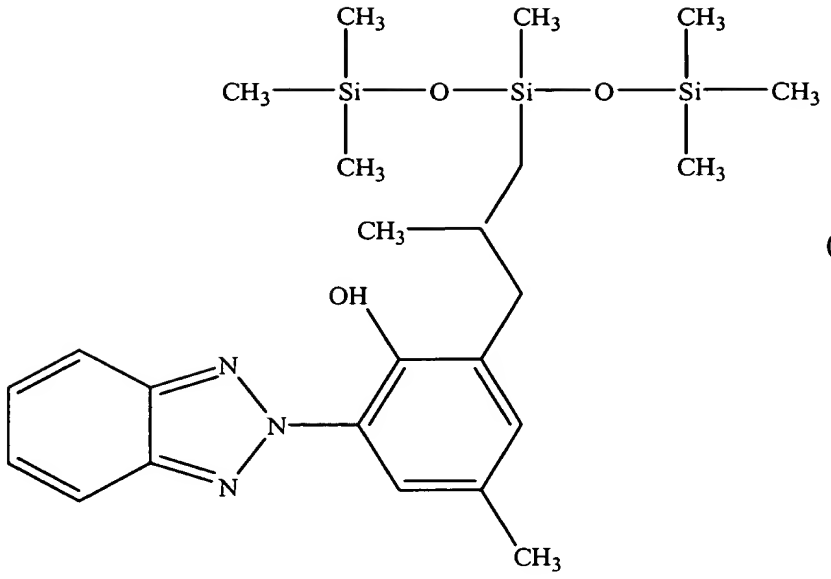
22. (Amended) The method of Claim 19, wherein the composition further comprises said keratolytic agent selected from the group consisting of α-hydroxy acids, β-hydroxy acids, α-keto acids, β-keto acids, retinoids, HMG-COA reductase inhibitor, and sugar derivatives.

D3

23. (Thrice Amended) A method of pro-pigmenting superficial body growths, comprising applying DHEA or at least one biological precursor thereof or metabolic derivative thereof to superficial body growths, wherein said metabolic derivative thereof is selected from the group consisting of 5-androstene-3β,17β-diol, 5-androstene-3β,17β-diol sulfate and 4-androstene-3,17-dione and said biological precursor thereof is selected from the group consisting of pregnenolone, 17α-hydroxypregnenolone, DHEA sulfate, 17α-hydroxypregnenolone sulfate and 5-androstenediol sulfate.

D4

31. (Amended) The method of Claim 30, wherein the composition further comprises the UV screening agent selected from the group consisting of dibenzoylmethane derivatives, benzylidenecamphor-based UVA-active screening agents, benzylidenecamphor-based UVB-active screening agents, benzimidazole-type or benzoxazole-type UVA-active screening agents, benzophenone derivatives, silane derivatives, polyorganosiloxanes containing a benzophenone group, benzotriazoles, benzotriazole silicones, triazine derivatives, cinnamic acid derivatives, alkyl 2-cyano-3,3-diphenylacrylates, octocrylene, the compound of formula I below,



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and mixtures thereof.

32. (Amended) The method of Claim 30, wherein the composition further comprises said other depigmenting agent selected from the group consisting of kojic acid, ellagic acid, arbutin and derivatives thereof, hydroquinone, aminophenol derivatives, iminophenol derivatives, L-2-oxothiazolidone-4-carboxylic acid and salts or esters thereof, procysteine and salts or esters thereof, ascorbic acid and derivatives thereof, and plant extracts.

33. (Amended) The method of Claim 30, wherein the composition further comprises said keratolytic agent selected from the group consisting of α-hydroxy acids, β-hydroxy acids, α-keto acids, β-keto acids, retinoids, HMG-COA reductase inhibitor, and sugar derivatives.

Please add new Claims 36-45 as follows:

36. (New) A method of treating skin pigmentation marks, comprising applying DHEA or at least one biological precursor thereof or metabolic derivative thereof to superficial body growths, wherein said metabolic derivative thereof is selected from the group consisting of 5-androstene-3β,17β-diol, 5-androstene-3β,17β-diol sulfate and 4-androstene-3,17-dione and said biological precursor thereof is selected from the group consisting of pregnenolone, 17α-hydroxypregnenolone, DHEA sulfate, 17α-hydroxypregnenolone sulfate and 5-androstenediol sulfate.

37. (New) The method of Claim 36, wherein said pigmentation marks are actinic lentigo.

38. (New) The method of Claim 36, wherein the DHEA or at least one biological precursor thereof or metabolic derivative thereof is applied in the form of a composition.

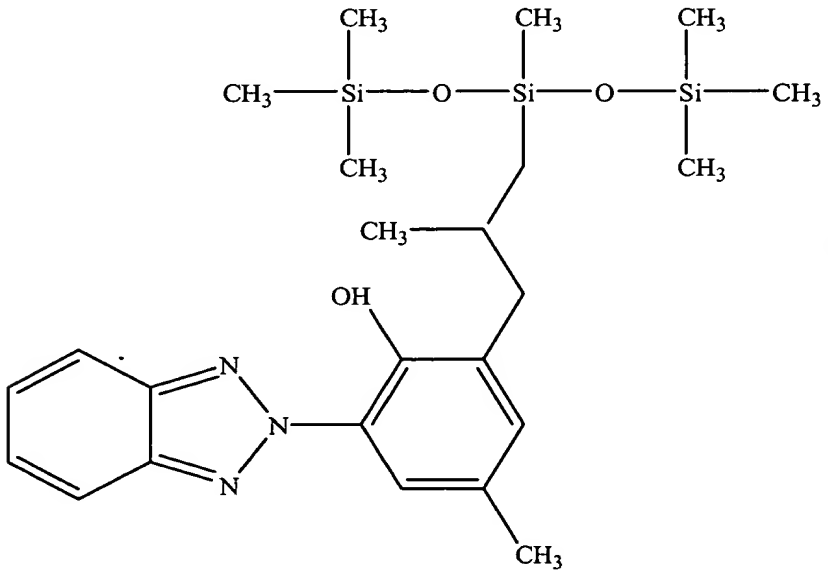
39. (New) The method of Claim 36, wherein the DHEA or at least one biological precursor thereof or metabolic derivative thereof is applied in the form of a composition comprising from 10^{-6}% to 10% by weight, relative to the total weight of the composition, of the DHEA or at least one biological precursor thereof or metabolic derivative thereof.

40. (New) The method of Claim 39, wherein the composition comprises from 0.1% to 5% by weight, relative to the total weight of the composition, of the DHEA or at least one biological precursor thereof or metabolic derivative thereof.

41. (New) The method of Claim 39, wherein the composition comprises about 1% by weight, relative to the total weight of the composition, of the DHEA or at least one biological precursor thereof or metabolic derivative thereof.

42. (New) The method of Claim 36, wherein the composition further comprises at least one UV screening agent and/or one other depigmenting agent and/or one keratolytic agent.

43. The method of Claim 42, wherein the composition further comprises the UV screening agent selected from the group consisting of dibenzoylmethane derivatives, benzylidenecamphor-based UVA-active screening agents, benzylidenecamphor-based UVB-active screening agents, benzimidazole-type or benzoxazole-type UVA-active screening agents, benzophenone derivatives, silane derivatives, polyorganosiloxanes containing a benzophenone group, benzotriazoles, benzotriazole silicones, triazine derivatives, cinnamic acid derivatives, alkyl 2-cyano-3,3-diphenylacrylates, octocrylene, the compound of formula I below,



(I)

and mixtures thereof.

44. The method of Claim 42, wherein the composition further comprises said other depigmenting agent selected from the group consisting of kojic acid, ellagic acid, arbutin and derivatives thereof, hydroquinone, aminophenol derivatives, iminophenol derivatives, L-2-oxothiazolidone-4-carboxylic acid and salts or esters thereof, procysteine and salts or esters thereof, ascorbic acid and derivatives thereof, and plant extracts.

D5 Cont.

45. The method of Claim 42, wherein the composition further comprises said keratolytic agent selected from the group consisting of α-hydroxy acids, β-hydroxy acids, α-keto acids, β-keto acids, retinoids, HMG-COA reductase inhibitor, and sugar derivatives.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENT

The amendments to Claims 12 and 23 deleting "5-androstenediol" have been made in view of the Examiner's comments, and in view of the Examiner's interpretation wherein "5-androstenediol" is considered to be the exact same material as 5-androstene-3β, 17β-diol. In addition, Claim 12 has been amended to remove DHEA sulfate, which amendment removes the rejection over Breton. Amendments to the remaining pending claims simply add clarity to these claims.

New Claims 36 and 37 are supported by the specification and claims as originally filed and, in particular, by page 5, lines 1-4. New Claims 38-45 find support throughout the specification and in, e.g., original Claims 13 and 17-22. No new matter has been entered.